

REMARKS

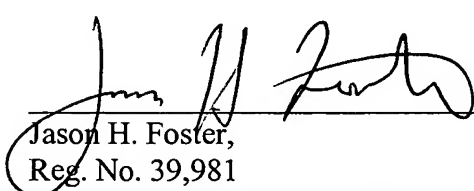
The limitations of original claim 1 have been incorporated into original claim 9, and the order and the wording of the limitations of original claim 1 have been changed slightly. The amended claim 9 recites a combination of method steps not found in the prior art. No prior art reference discloses a wear-resistant coating formed on a particulate substrate by applying a liquid matrix material to the substrate, disposing reinforcing fibers in the liquid matrix material, placing particulate in contact with the liquid matrix material on an opposite side of the fibers from the substrate and hardening the liquid matrix material. The method forms a composite of reinforcing fibers in a matrix of the hardened liquid matrix material on the particulate substrate with the wearing surface of particulate on the opposite side of the composite from the particulate substrate.

The filing fee paid is based on the claims as amended by this Preliminary Amendment.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

26 Nov. 2003
Date of Signature



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